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K-7564
TROJAN HORSENPIC/CSD 167/66
20 MARCH 1966
PAGES 12
PAGE 7
COPY 2

25X1

WATER-BORNE SUPPLY ROUTE
CAMBODIA/LAOS BORDER AREA1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS SUSPECT SUPPLY DEPOTS AND MOTORIZED RIVER CRAFT IN SOUTHERN LAOS AND NORTHERN CAMBODIA.

2. COLLATERAL:

A. COLLATERAL DATED NOVEMBER 1965 WHICH WAS OBTAINED FROM A HIGH-RANKING PATHET LAO DEFECTOR REPORTED THAT SUPPLIES WERE BEING MOVED FROM CAMBODIA NORTH ON THE TONLE KONG (RIVER)* BY BOATS TO TWO STORAGE AREAS LOCATED SOUTHWEST OF ATTOPEU, LAOS.

ONE DEPOT WAS REPORTED AT UTM XB685138 ON THE EAST BANK OF THE SE KONG IN LAOS JUST NORTH OF THE CAMBODIA BORDER, THIRTY-EIGHT KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF ATTOPEU. THE DEPOT CONSISTED OF TWO BUILDINGS LOCATED TWO HUNDRED METERS APART.

* THE TONLE KONG (RIVER), WHICH FLOWS FROM LAOS TO CAMBODIA AND EXTENDS, IN PART, ALONG THE BORDER OF THESE COUNTRIES, IS KNOWN AS THE SE KONG IN LAOS. THE RIVER WILL BE REFERRED TO AS THE SE KONG EXCEPT WHEN IT IS LOCATED WHOLLY WITHIN CAMBODIA.

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CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

CONFIDENTIALK-7564
TROJAN HORSENPIC/CSD 167/66
20 MARCH 1966
PAGE 2

25X1

THE SECOND DEPOT WAS REPORTED AT UTM XB621119 ON THE EAST BANK OF THE SE KONG, LOCATED IN CAMBODIA JUST SOUTH OF THE LAOS BORDER. THE DEPOT CONSISTED OF TEN BUILDINGS IN AN AREA THAT MEASURED EIGHT HUNDRED METERS BY TWO HUNDRED METERS.

THE SUPPLIES FOR THE TWO DEPOTS WERE REPORTEDLY BROUGHT UP THE TONLE KONG FROM SIEM PANG, CAMBODIA, NEAR CAMBODIA ROUTE 15. THE SUPPLIES WERE THEN PLACED ON THE SOUTH BANK OF THE SE KONG NEAR DON FAI ISLAND NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE DAC LAO (RIVER) AT UTM XA4997 OR TRANSFERRED DIRECTLY TO OTHER WAITING BOATS. (DON FAI ISLAND IS PROBABLY A REFERENCE TO THE SMALL ISLAND LOCATED JUST SOUTH OF THE LAOTIAN VILLAGE OF BAN DON FAI AT 1427N 10623E.) FROM THERE THE SUPPLIES WERE MOVED UP THE RIVER TO THE TWO STORAGE DEPOTS.

THE REPORT INDICATED THAT THE BOATS CARRYING THE SUPPLIES WERE FIFTEEN METERS LONG, POWERED BY A FIFTEEN HORSEPOWER MOTOR, AND CAPABLE OF CARRYING UP TO THREE TONS OF CARGO.

FROM THE DEPOTS THE SUPPLIES WERE MOVED TO SOUTH VIETNAM OVER RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED TRAILS THAT EXTENDED FROM THE TONLE KONG TO THE SO-CALLED "HO CHI MINH TRAIL" EAST OF ATTOPEU. (THE SUPPLIES WERE

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25X1

K-7564
TROJAN HORSE

NPIC/CSD 167/66
20 MARCH 1966
PAGE 3

25X1

TRANSFERRED EAST BY TEAMS OF BICYCLES, WITH ABOUT FOUR BICYCLES TO A TEAM.)

THE SAME SOURCE REPORTED AN AMMUNITION DEPOT LOCATED NEAR UTM XB7716, APPROXIMATELY THIRTY KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF ATTOPEU. THE DEPOT REPORTEDLY CONSISTED OF THREE TO FOUR BUILDINGS AND HELD A WIDE VARIETY OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION.

B. INFORMATION DATED DECEMBER 1965 OBTAINED FROM A CAMBODIAN SMUGGLER REPORTED THAT IN EARLY NOVEMBER 1965 APPROXIMATELY FORTY BOATS CARRYING RICE AND TWO BOATS CARRYING GASOLINE WENT FROM STUNG TRENG, CAMBODIA, TO THE VICINITY OF BAN DON FAI, LAOS, WHERE THE CARGO WAS DEPOSITED ON THE CAMBODIAN SIDE OF THE RIVER.

3. REMARKS:

THE CAMBODIA/LAOS BORDER AREA DEPICTED ON THIS BRIEFING BOARD IS ALSO THE SITE OF RECENT ROAD CONSTRUCTION. NEW CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY HAS BEEN OBSERVED ON A ROAD EXTENDING SOUTH FROM CHAVANE AIRFIELD IN LAOS TO A POINT 1.5 NM NORTH OF THE CAMBODIA BORDER AND 4 NM WEST OF SOUTH VIETNAM; AND A NEW ROAD HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED NORTH FROM CAMBODIA ROUTE 15 ALONG THE TONLE KONG INTO LAOS, AND THEN EAST TO A JUNCTION

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K-7564
TROJAN HORSENPIC/CSD 167/66
20 MARCH 1966
PAGE 4

25X1

WITH THE NORTH/SOUTH ROAD FROM CHAVANE.

4. MISSION READOUT:

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REVEALS THE FOLLOWING SUSPECT SUPPLY DEPOTS

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AND RIVER CRAFT OBSERVED IN THE CAMBODIA/LAOS BORDER
AREA:

A. A SUSPECT SUPPLY DEPOT IS LOCATED IN CAMBODIA ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE SE KONG AT 1434N 10629E (UTM XB611109). THE FACILITIES INCLUDE AT LEAST SIX BUILDINGS (FOUR PARTIALLY CONCEALED) AND TWO PROBABLE BOAT LANDINGS. TWO CANOES ARE OBSERVED IN THE AREA. A WELL-USED TRAIL EXTENDS NORTHEAST INTO LAOS, GENERALLY PARALLELING THE EAST BANK OF THE RIVER. SIX ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS ARE OBSERVED ALONG THE TRAIL APPROXIMATELY TWO THOUSAND METERS NORTHEAST OF THE SUSPECT SUPPLY DEPOT AT 1434N 10630E (UTM XB624123).

B. A SUSPECT SUPPLY DEPOT IS LOCATED IN LAOS ON THE EAST BANK OF THE SE KONG AT 1435N 10633E (UTM XB681140). AT LEAST THREE PARTIALLY CONCEALED BUILDINGS AND A FOOT BRIDGE ARE IN THE AREA. A WELL-USED TRAIL PROVIDES ACCESS TO THE TRAIL THAT CROSSES THE CAMBODIA/LAOS BORDER.

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20 MARCH 1966
PAGE 5

25X1

C. TWO MOTORIZED RIVER CRAFT ARE OBSERVED HEADING NORTH AT 1410N 10625E ON THE TONLE KONG. THE CRAFT ARE APPROXIMATELY FORTY FEET LONG AND HAVE COVERED CARGO AREAS. AT LEAST NINETEEN ADDITIONAL BOATS (WITH VARIOUS HULL CHARACTERISTICS) HAVE BEEN OBSERVED ON THE RIVER FROM SIEM PANG, CAMBODIA, TO A POINT AS FAR NORTH AS 1435N 10631E, BETWEEN

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ALL UTM COORDINATES ARE TAKEN FROM AMS SERIES L7012, SHEETS 6254 I AND 6354 IV.

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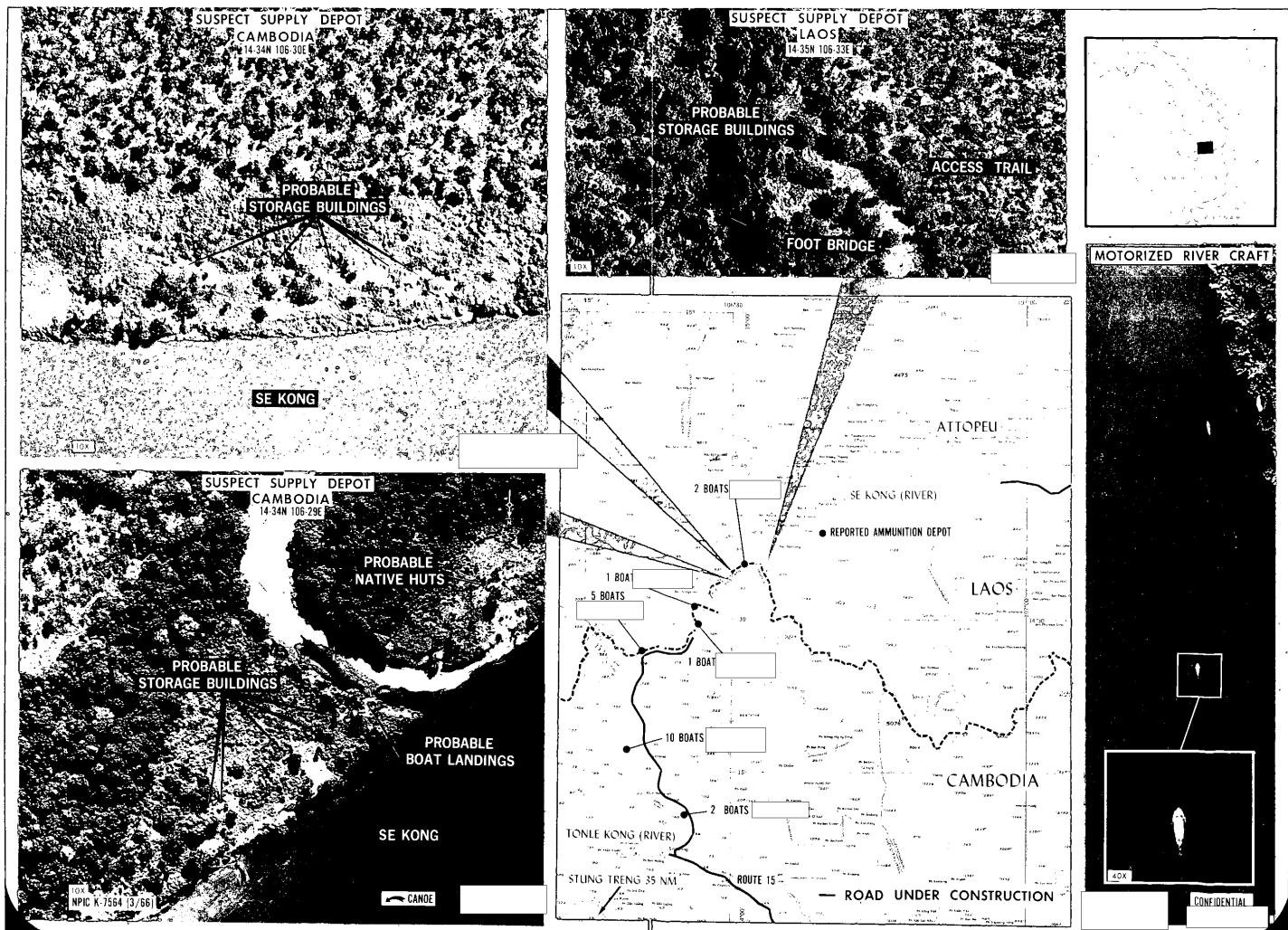
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BOATS - 10422

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